Message Text

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2.1

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 MED-02 SCS-03 PER-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /048 W

----- 110107

R 040717Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7813

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SF (MCKAY, JOHN G.)

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN VISA PROBLEMS - EMERGENCY ENTRY

REF: MASERU 0350

- 1. EMBASSY MBABANE RECENTLY HAD CASE VERY SIMILAR TO THAT DESCRIBED REFTEL, WITH SIMILAR RESULT.
- 2. AMCIT JOHN G. MCKAY, A RECENTLY ARRIVED PCV IN SWAZILAND, RECEIVED INFORMATION MARCH 26 THAT HIS FATHER HAD JUST DIED IN ATHENS. ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING, EMBASSY WAS INFORMED THAT MCKAY COULD NOT OBTAIN AIR PASSAGE TO JAN SMUTS TO MAKE A CONNECTING FLIGHT TO ATHENS, AND THAT HE DID NOT HAVE A SOUTH AFRICAN VISA. ASSUMING THAT THE BORDER POST WOULD NOT GRANT ADMINISTRATIVE ENTRY, EMBOFF TELEPHONED EMBASSY PRETORIA FOR AID IN FACILITATING ADMINISTRATIVE ENTRY. EMBOFF THEN ACCOMPANIED AMCIT TO OSHOEK BORDER TO ASSIST HIM IN GAINING ENTRY.

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3. AFTER ONE-HOUR DEBATE WITH BORDER GUARDS, EMBOFF WAS

ABLE TO ARRANGE ADMINISTRATIVE ENTRY. DURING THIS PERIOD, EMBASSY PRETORIA INFORMED EMBASSY THAT EMERGENCY VISA FOR MCKAY HAD BEEN APPROVED AND THAT OSHOEK BORDER POST WAS BEING INFORMED.

4. S.A. BORDER GUARDS ON SWAZILAND FRONTIER HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THEIR SUPERIORS TO CHECK WITH S.A. REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS BEFORE GRANTING EMERGENCY ENTRY INTO R.S.A. ACCESS TO SECURITY PERSONNEL IS CONTROLLED BY BORDER GUARDS, WHO VARY GREATLY IN INTELLIGENCE, PERSONALITY, EXPERIENCE, AND WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL. LANE

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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To: PRETORIA

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